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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 000287

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/ANP; PACOM FOR J4, J5 AND J7; OSD FOR A/S  
WYNNE, DSCA GEN KOHLER, ISP FOR EPHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/14/2015

TAGS: [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [AS](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RAISES EUROCOPTER ENGINES WITH DEFMIN  
HILL

Classified By: AMBASSADOR J. THOMAS SCHIEFFER FOR REASONS 1.4 (A, B AND  
D).

[1](#)1. (C) During his February 14 farewell call on Australian Minister for Defence Robert Hill, Ambassador raised the issue of the Australian Government's purchase of engines for the MRH-90 from Eurocopter. The Ambassador told DefMin Hill that the U.S. would appreciate it if the GOA requested General Electric engines for the helicopters. He noted that this would make maintenance considerably easier for Australian DOD since the ADF already had GE engines on its Blackhawk helicopters. The Ambassador also pointed out that the GE engines were set to be assembled in Australia. Minister Hill said he appreciated receiving the information.  
SCHIEFFER